London 10th May 1770

Sirs

Having recd. the honour of two Letters from a Comittee of the Town of Boston, appointed merely for the purpose of inquiring into & stating the late unhappy Transactions there & doubtless dissolved on having compleated that Business, I know not to whom so properly to address my answer, as to Gentlemen holding an Office of fixed continuance — should I be mistaken in supposing the Comittee to be dissolved, you will be pleased to consider this Letter as addressed to it, & the Gentlemen will, I am sure, pardon my mistake

The Contents of the first Letter dated the 12th March impressed me with the strongest Emotions & I thought it necessary imediately to move in the House of Comons for an Address to his Majesty to order to be laid before the House Copys of all Letters & Accounts recd. by any of the public Officers of any differences & disputes wch had

hapned

hapened between the Troops stationed in North America & the Inhabitants & also of all Orders & Instructions which had been sent to any Officer civil or military there since ye June last — I took this large ground upon advice with persons whom I knew to be, as I was, extremely uneasy at the unhappy dissentions between this Country & its Colonys & desirous to bring before the House of Comons the full & general Consideration of this momentous Business, in order to ascertain the Cause of the Evil & to provide some Remedy for its Cure — This Motion after having undergone some Alteration proposed on the part of Administration passed & the Papers have been produced —

The second Letter, of the 23^d March, was brought by y^r Express Capt Gordon who delivered me a Box containing a number of Packets, w^ts the printed Case & depositions relative to the Outrage of the 5th March, I took immediate care to have the Packets delivered —

Many other Papers tending to elucidate the Subject

of

RW 116(1)

America having been previously brought, on a Motion of Mr Burke's, that Gentleman did yesterday, in a very spirited & masterly manner state to the House the Subject at Large, the Debates on which lasted long — in the Course of them it strongly appeared that there are not wanting many able Advocates for your Cause so far as it stands founded in Justice

nothing however was held out by administration by way of plan, for composing the present distractions; that will I fear be postponed till the Session ends, wch is to be the 6ts when I hope the Deliberations of the Cabinet will be guided by a Spirit of Wisdom & Moderation, wch may produce some plan consistent with the strictest Equity & tending to universal public good

You Gentn see too plainly the dismal Consequences to wch all these Commotions tend, not to exert yourselves in the Cause of Peace & good Order, an Effect little short of destruction to both Countrys must they finally produce if they are suffered to continue & increase   My present Opinion is that is that there is no danger to quarter Troops again at Boston & I hope it will be made to appear by your future good order. that neither the civil Authority the Collection of the Revenue or observance of the Regulations of Trade do at all need military support in America

Relief from such grievances as regulation under acts I hope be applyed for in a regular constitutional way to Parliament, disclaiming at the same time all intention of breaking through the Act of Navigation wch has been much urged against you — for believe me Gentn you greatly mistake your own Interest in passing by the Parliament & applying to the Crown only

It has given universal satisfaction here to find that the tryals of Capt Preston & the Soldiers was not precipitately brought on — any sentence of severity would in that Case have been imputed to revenge & passion — the free Resort of the Officers to the Town after the Removal of the Regiments is also a Circumstance well thought of here

and

RW 116(2)

MS 224

And I have a strong persuasion that those Regiments will soon be wholey withdrawn

My most ardent Wishes are, that on both sides we may assume that temperate affectionate Conduct, which only, can become Men bound together by the united Ties of Blood Religion & Interest —

I have the Honor to be, with the most sincere affection & Respect

Sirs
Yr faithful & obedient Servt.
Barlow Trecothick

To the Select Men of the Town of Boston

RW 116(3)

London May 10. 1770
Mr Barlow Trecothick
Letter —

RW116(4)

2005 Boston Massacre Exhibit
#2.22

Ms 224